

FIBERSHED

2022 Impact Report

Letter from the Director:

Dear friends,



Thanks entirely to you, our supporters and partners, I am proud to report on another phenomenal year for Fibershed. In what follows you will find more detail of our accomplishments in the 2022 fiscal year, but I will summarize by sharing that the Fibershed Affiliate Community grew to 58 grassroots groups working throughout the globe and that we built national-level partnerships to scale our Climate Beneficial™ Agriculture Program to four regions within the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) committed funding to this work with \$30 million in grant support over the course of five years. Within our home region, our producer program network grew to 189 farms, ranches, small manufacturers, and designers. This same producer community—galvanized through a number of peer-to-peer events and our Carbon Farm Seed Fund—implemented 163 carbon farm practices with a drawdown impact of over 18,000 metric tons of CO₂e. Our movement-building work expanded with a 19% increase in newsletter signups, and we hosted 27 in-person workshops for 279 people at the Fibershed Learning Center.

Our board of directors and dedicated staff, interns, and volunteers have made all this work possible. Our partnerships with producers and other organizations in this space were invaluable to each and every advance. We are so thankful for our partnership with the National Center of Appropriate Technology, Colorado State University, the Carbon Cycle Institute, Seed2Shirt, the New York Textile Lab, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders, and a host of incredible consultants, small businesses, and individuals.

With your support, we are knitting together the elements of a functional and sustainable fiber system here in California and beyond. Producers, manufacturers, consumers, and the planet are all experiencing the benefits of this work, and we are so honored to be a part of the solution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Burgess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'R' and 'B'.

Rebecca Burgess | Fibershed Founder and Director

OUR MISSION

Fibershed is a nonprofit organization that develops regional fiber systems that build ecosystem and community health. Our work expands opportunities to implement climate-benefiting agriculture, rebuild regional manufacturing, and connect end-users to the source of our fiber through education. We transform the economic systems behind the production of material culture to mitigate climate change, improve health, and contribute to racial and economic equity.



KNOWLEDGE & ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Fibershed aggregates and disseminates knowledge based on data, direct experience, and traditional ecological knowledge. We celebrate our position at the intersection of economic development, fiber and textile production, and land stewardship.



KINSHIP

Fibershed fosters relationships among humans, land, plants, and animals based on a willingness to adapt. We actively cultivate a connection to place and community in ourselves and in others.



CHANGEMAKING

Fibershed prides itself on ethical, meaningful, intuitive, and joyful work that has the power to inspire creative individual change, place-based values thinking, regional skills, local advocacy, and systemic transformation.

Look for these icons in each program area, representing how we have addressed our core values.

The Regional Textile Economies Program:

Catalyzing land regeneration for a new economy



California Cotton & Climate Coalition (C4)

- 10 textile brand partners enrolled in Fibershed educational programming focused on building awareness of and the capacity to adopt climate beneficial agricultural practices on San Joaquin Valley farms
 - Over 1 million pounds of cotton verified into Fibershed's Climate Beneficial™ Fiber Program
 - 587 acres of land enrolled and transitioned to climate-benefiting land stewardship
 - Online portal was developed to track soil health test results
- Learn more here: californiacottonandclimatecoalition.com



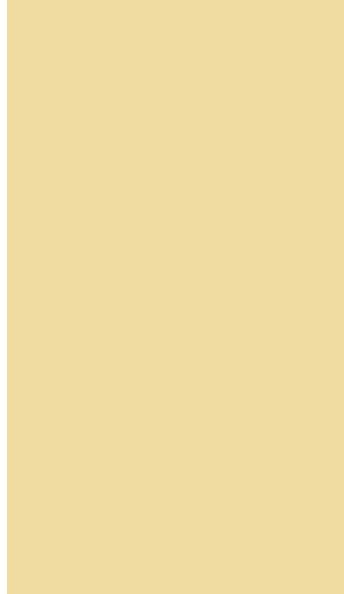
Vocational Training

- **Spanish Language Grazier Training:** 20 shepherds received Fibershed soil health and ecological function education
- **Shearing School:** Delivered a new curriculum and training in animal-welfare-focused shearing to 22 up-and-coming sheep shearers



Producer Network

- 189 farmers, ranchers, designers, artisans, makers, and mills throughout Northern and Central California are members of Fibershed's Producer Network
- 6 community-building and educational producer meetups hosted by Fibershed
- 400 consumers connected to local natural fiber products via 4 marketplaces with a total of 73 vendors
- 7 grazing-focused virtual discussions hosted
- 32 farms and studios visits completed
- 10 producers spotlighted in communications: fibershed.org/blog



Integrated Capital Fibers Fund (ICFF)

- \$1 million committed to this newly developed investment fund to uplift regional manufacturing

Climate Beneficial™ Wool Pool

- 44,000 pounds of wool verified into Fibershed's Climate Beneficial™ Verified fiber program from partner ranchers in Solano and Modoc Counties. Learn more here: climatebeneficialfiberpool.com

Climate Beneficial™ Agriculture:

Fibershed's Climate Beneficial™ Fiber Verification Program provides direct technical and financial support to farmers and ranchers to implement carbon farming practices.



Fibershed leverages relationships with partner organizations such as the network of Resource Conservation Districts to connect producers with technical assistance for carbon farming practices and funding opportunities. Fibershed facilitates peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing through coordinating carbon farming cohorts and providing learning opportunities to advance specific on-farm skills.

182,023

acres enrolled in the Climate Beneficial™ Program

107,084

metric tons (Mg) CO2e: 20-year total carbon impact for all practices implemented since program inception in 2016

297,373

Mg CO2e of 20-year drawdown potential mapped and modeled for growers

163

carbon farming practices implemented by Climate Beneficial™ Program producers; 18,847 Mg CO2e sequestered in 2021–2022 rain season

7

Carbon Farm Plans completed for producers; 9 producers achieved Climate Beneficial™ Verified status

\$120K

raised for the Carbon Farm Seed Fund; awards were made to support producers in implementing carbon farming projects representing a 7,660 Mg CO2e drawdown potential over the next 20 years

The Carbon Farm Seed Fund

Fibershed’s Carbon Farm Seed Fund was created to provide direct financial assistance to producers enrolled in the Climate Beneficial™ Program to implement carbon farming practices. The most common projects were applying compost to rangelands, seeding pastures, planting hedgerows, and purchasing fencing to facilitate prescribed grazing.

Learn more: fibershed.org/cff-22

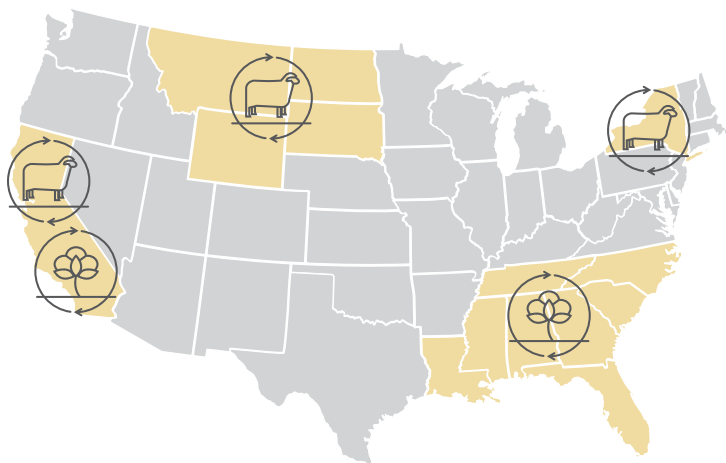




USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant

\$30M

awarded to Fibershed and 5 collaborating organizations to scale the Climate Beneficial™ Program for wool and cotton growers in 4 regions throughout the country over the next 5 years—California, the Northern Great Plains, Southeast Cotton Belt, and New York's Hudson Valley, with the eventual goal of expanding nationwide. Partner organizations on this project: the National Center for Appropriate Technology, Carbon Cycle Institute, Seed2Shirt, Colorado State University, and the New York Textile Lab.



Producer member technical assistance and educational opportunities

37

soil samples
conducted for
17 producers

11

virtual carbon farming
conversations hosted

2

carbon farming quick
guides developed
Read them here:
fibershed.org/carbon-farming-practices

3

Carbon Farm Plans
created by leveraging
Fibershed's Small
Farm Carbon
Farming Workbook

7

Land Stewardship Producer Forums hosted, providing 42 hours of in-person gatherings with producers, offering support and education to address land stewardship challenges. Eleven producers joined our pilot program to address foxtail encroachment in pastures.



Indigenous Land Stewardship Education

2

land walks and 2 public speaking events

1

cultural burn that gathered members from 4 different Community Grazing Cooperatives

“My ancestors are here witnessing this gathering of people from the North, the South, the East, and the West to tend this land together and they are happy. There is joy here.”

– Clint McKay, enrolled member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo and Wappo Indians of Geyserville



Cohorts

7

land walks on properties in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino Counties

3

new members joined, representing 844 acres

800

feet of hedgerow planted; 300 feet planted using plants from Fibershed’s annual seed/cutting exchange



Community Grazing Cooperatives

10

new grazing cooperatives established in Sonoma County, which will mitigate fire danger.

Learn more here: fibershed.org/grazing-anthology



San Joaquin Valley Climate Beneficial™ cotton system research

64-acre

Trial Site planted and harvested and soil health monitored with university partners at Bowles Farming Co.

Learn more here: fibershed.org/fiber-systems-research

Education and Advocacy Program:

Fibershed's Education and Advocacy Program educates, informs, and provides thought leadership on critical issues pertaining to the cultural and ecological value of natural fiber systems.



Public Events and Presentations

- 5,409 total participants
 - 4,369 virtual participants
 - 1,040 in-person participants
 - 189 attendees to the Fibershed Gala
 - Learn more about events: fibershed.org/events



Public Communication and Engagement

With the support of Bark Media, Fibershed now has:

- 63,970 followers, an increase of 7%
- 12,500 email subscribers, an increase of 19%
- 52 blog posts, garnering more than 20,000 views
- Robust traffic for white papers
(750 downloads for Plastics in Textiles White Paper alone)
- A popular 10-part podcast, Weaving Voices
Listen here: whetstonemagazine.com/radio/weaving-voices



Student Engagement

- 6 high school students in weekly internship program with Fibershed
- 4 design school partnerships (College of Alameda, Santa Rosa Junior College, Emily Carr University, and California College of the Arts)
 - 11 scholarships provided to students by Fibershed
 - 5 student designers produced regional garments for Student Designer Showcase



Learning Center Impact

- 279 students joined 27 workshops hosted by the Fibershed Learning Center
- 65 of these students' fees were covered by Fibershed's Scholarship Program. To support Fibershed's scholarship program, you can join as a Learning Center Supporter here: fibershed.org/learning-center-supporter-program
- 600 attendees for 5 Community Events, connecting our broader community to our work and vision
- 93 new visitors to 4 Partner Organization Events



Fibershed's small farm includes an array of crops from multiple ancestral lines and long classical breeding histories, all of which we grow seasonally for pigment, dye, and fiber. The crops we tend and harvest are used to support an array of farm-to-fashion activities, ethnobotanical practices, and skill-building workshops that we offer to the community.

10,037

native plant plugs planted, with 42 species specifically selected for basketry, natural dye and pigment, food, pollinator health, habitat health, and medicinal use

15

cubic feet of textile scraps composted in demonstration trials

560

pounds of Japanese indigo harvested and processed into paste and pigment

43

volunteers helped in the Fibershed garden this year



Affiliate Network

Fibershed supports 58 and growing Fibershed Affiliates, working in 31 states and 18 different countries around the world to build, from the ground up, regional soil-to-soil textile systems in their home communities. The Affiliate Network has grown tremendously since its inception. Accomplishments for 2022 include:

- 10-month needs assessment completed, focused on evaluating the common challenges found among each fibershed region and its organizers
- 7 Affiliate Organizer webinars hosted
- 19 educational webinars completed
- 3 Working Groups established, including the European Hub (a subgroup of 13 Affiliates to collaborate on Europe-specific projects, advocacy, and grant opportunities)
- 2 meetups hosted to encourage networking, project sharing, and community building
- \$109,000 to 26 Affiliate projects—more than double in funding and projects than the previous grant cycle
- \$41,575 raised to support regional natural textile communities around the globe; funded via the first annual Threading Resilience Zine and the Threading Resilience fundraising campaign. View the zine here: fibershed.org/affiliate-zine



Comment Letters

Fibershed continues to engage in advocacy and education efforts, uplifting natural fiber solutions and raising awareness about microplastic pollution, climate policy, and textile system change.

- 63 public comment letters submitted with 81 community and organizational signatories to California Statewide Microplastics Strategy
- 13 comment letters submitted or signed on for California and international textile, climate, and agriculture policy decisions
- 10 technical comment letters submitted representing voices of the international natural fiber industry, natural dye producers, and textile waste solution advocates on US EPA/NOAA Microfiber Pollution Strategy

Partner Projects & Fellowship Highlights

Relationships That Sustain Deep Roots



Tisina Parker, Native One Regalia Fellow

“This work is a representation of California women’s Regalia from tribal groups—Southern Sierra Miwuk of Yosemite, Paiute, and Pomo. This Regalia is made of natural plant materials, seeds, shells, feathers, animal hides and furs harvested and collected throughout California. Materials were gathered over a year in connection to community and the land in partnership with other tribal people, artistic collaborators, and community members. These materials are considered sacred and special items, holding great power and wealth. All materials are meticulously handcrafted and hand processed into ceremonial clothing. Regalia carries potent sacredness. It is a definition of who we are as California Native people, our connection to our ancestral land, animal and plant relatives and defines our place within the natural world.”

Grace Johnson, Fibershed and Earthseed Fellow



“The [Fibershed] Learning Center has been critical in my self-discovery process, from inspiration to concept to creation. Within that space I can physically touch and explore what it may look like to source all aspects of my production process regionally. As a plant dyer, the Learning Center has all the specialized equipment (and space) to experiment, teach, and learn with earth’s seasonal colors. Land-based practitioners need these customized spaces to realize projects.”

Nikyle Begay, Rainbow Fiber Coop



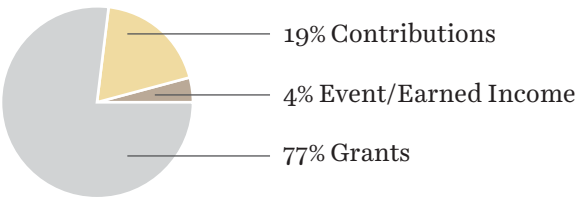
“[My grandmother raised sheep], so it’s important to me and my family that we hold on to them. Before when we’d sell our wool to the trader we would barely get enough to buy a cup of coffee. Sometimes I’d have to add the spare change in my pockets to get the coffee. These are stories that were told to me by shepherds as we weighed and purchased their wool this year. The stories they hold about knowledge passed down from their great-grandmothers and grandmothers and their love for the sheep is a commonality between everyone. I’m very proud of what Rainbow Fiber Co-Op has become and being able to help so many shepherds continue the traditions of our ancestors.”

Financials

Fibershed has had another strong year financially. We are honored to do this work and grateful for the means to support our community. Thank you.

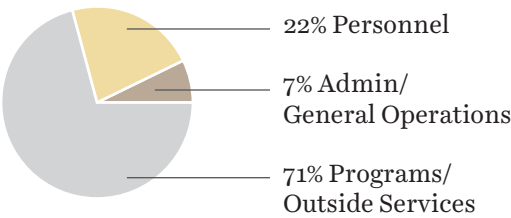
REVENUE

Grants	\$1,435,984
Event/Earned Income	\$59,989
Contributions	\$357,439
Total Revenue	\$1,853,412



EXPENSES

Programs/Outside Services	\$1,336,717
Personnel	\$412,492
Admin/General Operations	\$140,016
Total Expenses	\$1,889,225



ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Current Assets	\$1,278,815
Total Assets	\$1,278,815
Liabilities	\$98,284
Equity	\$1,180,531
Total Liability & Equity	\$ 1,278,815

THANK YOU

Our donors make our work possible. Thank you for supporting our producers, the planet, and our growing regional fiber system. We could not do this work without you.

These gifts were made to Fibershed between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. Fibershed's tax ID is 45-3055196.
Join the community of Fibershed supporters: fibershed.org/join

FOUNDATION GRANTS

11th Hour Project, a project of The Schmidt Family Foundation	Ballard-Means Family Foundation	Marciano Family Foundation
Anonymous donor advised fund at The Chicago Community Foundation	Community Foundation for San Benito County	NDN Collective, Inc.
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Join us for an event!

Fibershed offers a robust calendar for the public; come learn to sew with us, create your own natural dyes, and become a part of this incredible community.

Learn more at: fibershed.org/events



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Fibershed

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Graphic Design: shirleycreative.com

Editor: Isabel French | Proofreading: David Sweet

Photographers: family (p3) by Koa Kalish; bottom photo (p13) by Kelli Dunaj; all other photos by Paige Green

Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post-consumer fiber.